

**From:** DeSpain, David R.  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/16/02 3:35pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs:

First of all, I am writing this as my personal opinion, it does not represent the position of the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Microsoft deserves no sympathy or kindness. Do you remember the company that developed a disc compression utility called Stacker? Microsoft blatantly copied this, and when Stacker won in court, Microsoft bought the company rather than pay a larger penalty. This is what they laughingly call "innovation". Their "freedom to innovate" is the freedom to steal other's property, force makers to buy their OS for every unit or else pay full retail price, and use the profits from the OS to force other companies (WordPerfect, Stacker, Netscape) out of business.

What they can't control, they mess in. After their purchase of a large interest in Corel, Corel suddenly lost interest in what was arguably the best Linux distribution available. Please investigate this purchase as it surely is anti-competitive.

Besides, since when does a convicted criminal get to pick the punishment he feels appropriate?

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